

1 Interviewee: Jo Duvauchelle

2 Location: Kauai Community College, Nursing Department

3 Date: October 29, 2010 – 10:00 – 11:45 (approximate)

4 Team: Carol Bain, Rhea Palma, Andy Bushnell

5 Oral History Project 2010: Island Movers & Shakers of the 20th Century

6

70:00:31.6

8

9 Interviewer: Aloha, Joy—Jo.

10

11 Jo: Jo, yes, there is a Jo-Ray.

12

13 Interviewer: For the record, can you please tell us your name, and where you were

14 born?

15

16 Jo: Ok, I'm Josephine. My mother gave me the name Abaya, Gray Abaya [spelling],

17 after my grandmother, and then Cortezan is the last name, and then I married Raymond

18 Duvauchelle from Kauai.

19

20 Interviewer: How long have you lived on Kauai?

21

22 Jo: All my life! Born and raised here except when I went away to school. That's the only

23 time I left Kauai.

24

25 Interviewer: Where did you go to school here while you were on the island?

26

27 Jo: Koloa Elementary School, and then war started, 1940s, we were only about a few

28 months to Kauai High School, and then they put us back into our districts at Koloa

29 Elementary School, and already you know they didn't have enough teachers. So, we

30 just kind of played around in that time, which my parents didn't like. And that's when we

31 left Kauai and they put us in Mid-Pacific Honolulu. And that's the reason why we went

32 there. Because there's really no education here on Kauai at that time. Do you want to

33 know after that? Let me see . . . graduated from Mid-Pacific, went to the Illinois Westlyn

34 University for a couple of years, came back to Kauai. Didn't know what to do with

35 myself. My parents didn't know what they were going to do with me, so my mother

36 contacted a nurse she knew in Cincinnati, who had worked in the plantation here on

37 Kauai. And she knew of a school in Cincinnati, Ohio, so my mother was the one who

38 hastily enrolled me, which was really fortunate because it really was the first college of

39 nursing here in the United States, at the University of Cincinnati. Strictly, by luck.

40 Hopefully, because somebody wanted me to be there, that I went. So I graduated from

41 the first collect of nursing class.

42

43 That was actually a very special school because it was the first to offer a—

44 Baccalaureate Science degree. As part of the program. You know you went like any

45 other student, if you had to take science, you took it on the main campus, English, that

46 kind of thing. Then the nursing was at the Cincinnati General Hospital, the medical

47 school, which was just down the street from our dorms at Cincinnati.

48

49Interviewer: I'm going to back up a bit and ask about your parents, since you mentioned
50that your mother, and I also a little bit your father being a minister, and your mother
51being a nurse. Can you tell us, were they born on Kauai?

52

53Jo: No, they were born in the Philippines.

54

55Interviewer: And when did they come here?

56

57Jo: In the early 1900s. It must have been around that time. She graduated from School
58of Nursing that was by American Standards. She just happened to go to a school of
59nursing that taught nursing I American ways. So when they were recruiting nurses to
60come to Kauai or to Hawaii to work in the plantations, she already met the criteria for
61practice of nursing here in Hawaii. And so that's how she came over, she was recruited
62by the plantations to come to minister to their laborers, and many of them were Filipino
63and did not understand English very well. And She had real skills, she understood and
64spoke four dialects and Spanish and English. So she was really good.

65 My father came, you want to know about him?

66

67Interviewer: Yes!

68

69Jo: He came as a stowaway with his students from the Philippines (laughs)! And any
70time somebody called roll on the ship, if nobody answered, they would answer. That's
71how come they came to Hawaii. And then they reached Kauai, they disappeared, you
72know. They didn't want anybody to know they were here illegally. But at that time the
73plantations wanted anybody that would come work on the plantations. But then he went
74on to school. He was a teacher in the Philippines, and he graduated then from a
75seminary from the mainland, and then returned to Hawaii. And then they met in Hawaii,
76they didn't know each other. They came from opposite ends of the Philippines, as I
77understand. I'm not really sure; I think he's from Iloilo, wherever that is. She's from Cebu
78or someplace like that. And she was from Ilocos Sur, Handun (SPELLING). Oh, I
79remembered! (laughs)

80

81Interviewer: Wonderful, So, they met here on Kauai?

82

83Jo: They met here in Hawaii, yes.

84

85Interviewer: And both of them were serving the community?

86

87Jo: He was.

88

890:05:46.0

90Interviewer: And what were their names?

91

92Jo: Catolino Colorje Cortezan, and she was Josephina Grai Abaya Cortezan. I think at
93that time, they traced their lineage through their names. So, Grai was her mother's

94name, yes, married name. So, that's—and they both came here and met and got
95married.

96

97Interviewer: I had a question about Josephina, your mother, when she came here as a
98nurse, what sort of conditions did she see in the camps? And did she feel compelled to
99change some of those things?

100

101Jo: I really don't know, but I think the plantations wanted healthy workers. So, that was
102the main thing. So that workers could understand the nurses, so they would more likely
103tend to follow the advice or medical orders from a nurse who could speak the language.

104

105Interviewer: Did she have any challenges?

106

107Jo: She never did say was overwhelmingly...you know, she just ... I guess she did the
108work, that's what they had to do and they did it. And at that time, the plantations?
109concerned about their workers remaining healthy. And when they started having
110children, that's when I started to work to because they had a lot of well-baby clinics. And
111she never said anything derogatory about the care. I don't remember at all.

112

113Interviewer: Going back to college . . .

114

115Jo: Oh yes!

116

117Interviewer: After you graduated, where did you go?

118

119Jo: Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu because the schools were all closed when the war
120started. And my parents didn't like that. We were going to the school in elementary
121school, and you know, there weren't any teachers to teach us, and my parents didn't like
122that, so they really sacrificed and sent all of us to Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu.
123Which is a boarding school, so they knew we would get good high school education.
124And that's the reason why we went there, because of the war.

125

126Interviewer: And then you went on to Cincinnati . . .

127

128Jo: I went on to first Illinois Westlyn University I Bloomington, Illinois. Came back, after
129two years, then didn't know what I wanted to do like many young people today, not only
130that time. And my mother knew a nurse, plantation nurse that graduated from school of
131nursing in Cincinnati, so my mother said you're going to nursing. So, ok, I don't know
132what I'm going to do with my life.

133

134Interviewer: And what did you think about nursing?

135

136Jo: I really didn't know what was available to women at the time. Be a nurse? Be a
137teacher? Or be a housewife? Or that kind of thing. And I didn't want to be a housewife
138(laughs).

139So that's how come they sent us, they were adamant about all of us having an

140education. And luckily then, the school in Cincinnati, the University started a college of
141nursing, they eliminated the usual hospital schools of nursing in the University of
142Cincinnati, that's how come it was strictly by chance, a wonderful chance, that I went to
143the first university, college of nursing in the United States. And that's where I graduated.
144

145Interviewer: You didn't come straight home after graduating from Cincinnati, did you?

146No, we couldn't. For one thing the educational classes took really four solid years.

147Maybe with a break between semesters, and maybe at Christmas. But we, you know, it
148was run through the semesters and summers. And I never did return until I finished
149school in four years.

150

151Interviewer: Did you work in Cincinnati?

152

1530:10:03.0

154Jo: I did. I was, I guess they didn't know what to do with new graduates, right? So I was
155a supervisor in a long-term care unit, and then they needed emergency room nursing
156nurses, so they recruited me to that. So, I did that before returning to Kauai.

157

158Interviewer: And so, when did you return? To Kauai?

159

160Jo: Let me see, when did I return to Kauai? 19 . . . let me see.

161

162Interviewer: The early 1950s?

163

164Jo: Yeah, oh yes, around 1954? [To her husband Raymond] When did we get married?

1651954?

166

167Raymond: '54.

168

169Jo: Yeah, a couple years before that I returned, '51, '52. '52, I think!

170

171Interviewer: And when you returned to Kauai, what did you do?

172

173Jo: Public health nursing. They needed public health nurses, so I was, because I had
174the correct credentials, and that's why, 'cause at that time was mostly diploma schools
175of nursing, and if you wanted to go into public health, you had to back to school, you
176know, that kind of thing. And there were others that were qualified to become public
177health nurses, but I was the only one available. Everybody else were working very
178nicely in whatever fields they chose.

179

180Interviewer: And as a public health nurse, did that take you around the island?

181

182Jo: My district was Koloa, Puhi, Lihue, mostly Puhi, Lihue and Hanamaulu, and
183occasionally I went into Koloa if I needed to go there. But this was my district, right here.

184

185Interviewer: How long did you work at that?

186

187Jo: Wow, when did I retire? 19 . . . let's see. I've forgotten when I retired . . . when I had
188my children! I'll tell you why I decided to retire. I liked what I was doing but my parents
189were so involved in the community that my grandmother raised us. And so when I had
190my children, I said, I'm going to stay home! And raise my own children, which I did, until
191almost started pre-school. So, that took me pretty far? [12.12..8] to the latter part of
192anyway, the 1950s. Yeah.

193

194Interviewer: You know, Jo, you are credited with developing the KCC, Kauai Community
195College Nursing Program. So when, how did that fit in? You were a public nurse, and
196mom ...?

197

198Jo: Well, I think I was ready to come back and do something. It was just the timing, and
199they needed someone, there were not too many people with the necessary
200qualifications, you know, I just happened to be one of them.

201

202Interviewer: Were you approached personally?

203

204Jo: Oh, yeah! I think they did, didn't they? I think they did. I didn't... they had to come
205and see me to see if I would do it. It was suppose, oh! It was under Kaupena Wong,
206who was part of the Economic Development Committee, I think it was, and the hospitals
207must have said we need nurses. So he went out and found the personnel, found the
208students to attend, that kind of thing. And that's how I started. Because it was a need in
209the community.

210

211Interviewer: Was there any program at all established at KCC before . . .

212

213Jo: Oh, no, no! If they did anything, in the hospitals, itself, maybe a nurses aid kind of
214thing training. But nothing that led to certification or license, yeah.

215

216Interviewer: So were you one of the first nursing instructors, and what position did you
217have?

218

219Jo: I did everything.

220

221Interviewer: Tell me what was "everything"?

222

223Jo: It was one of those things, you had to supervise, you did everything, you know. You
224lectured, gave the lectures, supervised them in the hospital, you did everything to
225develop programs so you would be certified so your students could take the licensing
226exam, unless your courses were certified, they were not allowed to take the professional
227exams.

228

229Interviewer: So you developed the curriculum?

230

231Jo: Yes.

232

233Interviewer: Did you have a model?

234

235Jo: Only the one I had in my head and my experience. In a way, was fortunate I didn't
236have any other models like a hospital school of nursing. The only thing I knew was my
237collegiate courses, so that was what I thought was expected! They would function on a
238college level. I didn't know there was any= other thing. This is where ignorance is bliss,
239you don't know so you set your goals, at that level that I knew, which was the collegiate
240level. So that's what I expected of the students. I think there was a question about
241whether we could do it or not. I think I remember there was a little bit hullabaloo. "You
242want to start a nursing program at Kauai Community College?" You know, that kind of
243thing, not knowing for sure. Because it was looked at as a vocational career, rather than
244a professional occupation, at that time.

245

246Interviewer: Vocational as opposed to professional?

247

248Jo: Yeah, and I didn't know any better. The students that were going to do it was going
249to do it on what I knew, which was collegiate level. Which was good at that time,
250because I didn't know I had a choice.

251

2520:15:35

253Interviewer: Did you have any mentors at the time, helping you along?

254

255Jo: Not really. I'm trying to think. You know this is where it's good not know anything, so
256you just plunge along, you know? I think I'll do it like I learned when I was in school, and
257that's what I did. There weren't too many people around that did nursing education.

258

259Interviewer: So, how long were you a teacher here at KCC?

260

261Jo: Oh my gosh. I have to try to remember. When did I retire, Duvie (husband), 1954,
262around there middle 50s. Yeah.

263

264Interviewer:: That's when you started.

265

266Jo: Oh, you mean education?

267

268Interviewer: So you actually, it sounds like you started the nursing school program when
269you retired from . . .

270

271Jo: They were wanting, yeah? Somebody to teach anybody, you know? And I was ready
272at the time, my children were starting grade school, you know, and it was time for me to
273do something else.

274

275Interviewer: you must have started in the 1970's? Did you teach on old campus?

276

277Jo: Yes, we started Kauai High School, yes.

278

279Interviewer:: 'Cause that must have been in the '70s.

280

281Jo: Yeah, we started early, I think I taught a couple classes there '69, and then they
282transferred to this school, then came here, yeah. I remember . . . thinking 1969 was
283when I did something.

284

285Interviewer: Were you here before Maxine Kim?

286

287Jo: Maxine. I think I did the early ones before they decided to develop a college of, you
288know, the rest of the program. Because I did the LPNs and nurses aides.

289

290Interviewer: And then you came back afterwards?

291

292Jo: And then I came back, when she left.

293

294Interviewer: Yeah, and you took over the program, right?

295

296Jo: Yes, yes. That's what I did [laughs].

297

298Interviewer: And you don't remember when you retired from the nursing program?

299

300Jo: When did I retire, Duvie? Quite a while after that. . . .

301

302Interviewer: I read somewhere that you were teaching for 20 years, about 20 years?

303

304A lot happened during that time. So you basically had nothing. When you left the
305program, in what shape was it in?

306

307Jo: We had everything. It was very good. I think when we first started, I think the
308Science Department might have been a little bit, "Huh. What are we going to do with
309this?" that kind of thing. Because they . . . I expected, by my own experience, the
310Science Department was going to teach the science, anatomy & physiology, and all the
311math. I wasn't going to do any of that, that's they're kuleana, you know. I was just going
312to do nursing. But I didn't realize they were kind of caught, because I don't think there
313were many nursing programs that required out of college, at that time. But they
314developed it and they did well, the kids did really well. And when they came to me, I
315expected them to have that background, because then we're going to go back into
316nursing and apply it to people care, you know.

317

318Interviewer: So, when you left the program, 20 years later, let's how do they refer to it,
319that you had developed a career nursing ladder program. And what is that exactly?

320

321Jo: Well, I didn't want failure. So if you opt out after the first semester, you were
322qualified to become a nurse's aide. And if you continued, and finished at two semesters
323and summer session, you could sit for the licensure for a practical nurse. You could

324become a licensed practical nurse. And if you wished, you could continue and get your
325associates degree in nursing and sit for the exams as a registered nurse. That's what I
326called a career ladder, because you could go out and come in and you're not a failure, if
327you've come to get a certain amount of education, you go out and get a job, work in the
328field. And that's why it's career ladder, because you didn't fail, you went from one area
329to—I didn't think of it that way, but it turned out that's what happened. That they could
330come back and continue, come back and continue. And if you finished, over here, you
331could go to the University of Hawaii, where at that time they had a baccalaureate's
332program, and continue your third and fourth year, or go to the mainland somewhere and
333continue because you had college credits all the way. It was not vocational credits, that
334kind of thing. It was transferable. So they could continue. And that's what I like about the
335career ladder nursing program. You're not a failure, at anytime you opt out, you just
336move along where you want to go.

337

3380:20:35.9

339Interviewer: Looking back at your career, what stands out as most important to you? In
340terms of your contribution?

341

342Jo: Oh, my goodness. Hmmm. I'm glad I did the nursing program. I never saw myself as
343a teacher. That's the last thing I wanted to do. You know, that was way above me! And
344nursing, ok, my mother was a nurse. But actually I didn't know what to do with my own
345life. It just fell into place. And it turned out it was good! I did nursing, I did teaching. So it
346just worked out really well.

347

348Interviewer: Now that you're retired registered nurse, are you stil involved in healthcare
349on Kauai or in the community?

350

351Jo: No, not really. I don't think they should, nobody should hire me anymore. I'm way
352behind I my knowledge base, you know. And nursing has changed, I wouldn't know
353anything in the hospital, except maybe, bed, I could make the bed in the hospital, well,
354you know. But there's so many new information, so many new things, so many new
355drugs, it would be very difficult for me to go back. I could do basic nursing, but anything,
356but no. It would be dangerous for the patient.

357

358Interviewer: Looking at the program now, what can you say about the nursing program
359now?

360

361Jo: It's doing well, you know, as long as it keeps up and maintains the standards that
362will allow the student to move, as far as the educational needs, and desires. That's fine.
363If they can transfer to a high level, I think they're doing the best they can for the student.
364You know, because when you're young, you don't know what you're going to do. You're
365going to school because you parents kind of poked you along (laughs) and so you went.
366But, and also so they can continue where they want to go.

367Parents poking you along, your parents sort of poked you along, it sounds like.

368

369Oh yes! We weren't allowed to fail. None of us. It was just one of those things you didn't

370think about it. You're going here, you're going to go there, you're going to go which is
371what happened.

372

373Interviewer: So, what would you say you learned most about yourself? You were so
374busy teaching others? What did you learn about yourself?

375

376Jo: You know, I really . . . I think you develop yourself as you go along. You're not the
377same person. So, I know I had to develop an ability to communicate with the students
378so they would understand, and to practice nursing like you would want to do it. And I did
379that. I did not work in the hospital here on Kauai, no I didn't.

380

381Interviewer: I had a question about that . . .

382As I say, I worked in the emergency room in Cincinnati, so we took care of all the
383emergencies of the city; all the ambulances were brought to us. So, I never really . . .

384I nursed through my students. Whatever I taught and they gave the nursing care, that's
385what I did. I was a public health nurse for a long time on Kauai. I never did hospital
386nursing.

387

388Interviewer: What would you like to be best remembered for?

389

390Jo: Oh my goodness. I never even thought about that! Well, I think maybe, since we're
391talking about education, I think maybe, providing a field that our young people can go to
392and succeed, provide service to the community. I think that's important.

393

3940:24:29.0

395I think I got it from my parents because that's what they did all the time. Both my father
396and mother did that kind of thing. They were in their own professional fields, but oh, you
397should hear the knocks on our doors at night. Parents looking for their daughters,
398especially, who ran away from home, who didn't want to get married, you know those
399years, plantation. Didn't want to get married, so they ran away came to my house. The
400courts would place young ladies with my father and mother, and supervise them, and
401saw them through high school education, and then after that they could make their own
402decision.

403

404My parents did a lot of things that might have been a little different from the usual. And
405we never thought of it as anything. That was our life . . .? [25:19.3], so that's what you do.
406I never thought about it, so . . .

407

408Interviewer: What professional advice did you give your up and coming new nurses?

4090:25:31.8

410Jo: Well, probably, love what they do. And then continue the knowledge base because
411the medical information. On top of all of that, this is what I say: Remember the patient is
412a human being, and not a "thing" to take care have or a "thing" to say "Oh, they have
413this disease", you know, but always is a human being. Always consider them human
414beings with needs. I think my parents did that, 'cause they always saw who ran to them
415for care and advice. I should remember that. Knocks at our door at night, "I'm looking for

416my daughter!" You know. It really was something. And we would have another child in
417our family the next day to care for because they needed some place.

418

419Interviewer: Sounds like your parents were great mentors in your life.

420

421Jo: Oh, yeah. One thing I must tell you. They worked so hard in the community, when I
422got married had children, I'm not going back into my profession until I raise my children,
423because my parents were always out helping others. So, luckily, my grandmother came
424t live with us, so she really took care of us. So that's when I said to myself, that if I had
425children, I would stop, care for them, until them went off onto school.

426

427Interviewer: So, that sounds like it was little bit of a hardship but you learned to make for
428that in your own life.

429

430Jo: Maybe was a hardship. But it's not something I wanted to do. They were just called
431to do because they had so many skills the community needed. And they couldn't say no,
432I don't wanna go interpret for you, or don't take care of this person, you know, that kind
433of thing. But I knew what I wanted to do with my own children. But then I went back into
434the community again.

435

436Interviewer: There's another mentor in your life, another public health nurse . . . Mabel
437Wilcox.

438

439Jo: Mabel Wilcox!

440

441Interviewer: How did you know her?

442

443Jo: Through my mother. There were kindred, they were both nurses. And automatically
444just knew them through my mother.

445

446Interviewer: What do you remember of her?

447

448Jo: Oh! Both of them Elsie and Mabel Wilcox as superior beings, way above you.

449[laughs]

450We used to go to the house, we used to try to sneak in the door to see what, how they
451lived. It was so funny when I think about it today. They were very nice, they were very
452nice women. Way ahead of their time. When I stop to look back. Both professional
453women.

454

455Interviewer: You were familiar with their work and Mabel's work as a public nurse.

456

457Jo: Especially Mabel Wilcox because I think she maybe mentored by mother, too, and
458was responsible for the kind of care that was being developed in the plantations on
459Kauai, as they were involved in the plantation community.

460

461Interviewer: If I may, that's one of the areas we wanted. What do you remember of the

462plantation care and the health, and how have you made a difference. Did you notice a
463difference between then and now?

464

465W Jo: Well, I had nothing to do with that. I can't take credit for that at all, no.

466

467Interviewer: Just a private thing.

468

469Jo: Yeah. I think you know the plantations did give good care, they have anyway the
470plantation hospitals. I don't know too much about the care, but they had it. I know Dr.
471Waterhouse, who was in Koloa, excellent physician. Both he and his wife were
472community minded. His wife started a pre-school, when you never thought about pre-
473school those years. And it happened to be in our church, so many of us went to the pre-
474school, and now many of us became professionals, which said, yes, new idea about
475how early education is so important, is important. 'Cause I don't think without that
476because many of my colleagues then came from plantation families. They weren't
477ahead of anybody else, we just came from ordinary families, had an early education,
478continued to do well, and went off to college. So, I think unusual at that time.

479

480Interviewer: You were a public health nurse. Was infant mortality an issue, what was
481your day like as a public health nurse?

482

4830:30:17.0

484Jo: It was more preventive. I did maternal childcare. For illnesses, it was the illnesses
485that the Dept. of Health considered important, so we did tuberculosis follow-up,
486maternal child follow-up, follow-up of people with communicable disease, that kind of
487thing.

488

489Interviewer: I was just wondering if you'd noticed a change as the populations changed,
490as far as public health nursing.

491

492I think that it had excellent care, looking back. It's very unusual, but I think, I don't know
493who started it,

494

495[Jo had to take a break at this moment, some dialogue was lost]

496

497... important in making that decision. But I think for the time, the people in the
498plantations had excellent care.

499

500[Jo had difficulty continuing to talk, needed to take a break again.]

501

502**Recording 2**

5030:00:31.5

504

505Interviewer: Andy

506

507I was wondering if you could tell us a little more about your public health nursing, and

508what you actually did, and what, did you go to people's houses?

509

510Jo: Oh, yeah, we did everything. In public health, all the islands, every island, including
511Kauai was divided in districts. And I said, I happened to have the Hanamaulu-Lihue-
512Puhi area from Knudsen Gap on to the river. Anybody in that area, who lived in that,
513were part of my district. You want to know what we did? We visited every child that was
514born, to see that they were OK, and then we would know if they were followed up. The
515plantations used the Dept. Health maternal-baby clinic, yeah, clinics. So that's what the
516public health nurses did. We did both. And I did it in my district. We visited every
517crippled child, it was part of communicable disease, special events [?], things like
518Hansen's, we were part of trying to get them to seek a treatment, or ?? [2:01.0],
519somebody would come and get 'em because you were isolated immediately. And any
520kind of public health kind of thing we did.

521

522Interviewer: Did they have drugs for Hansen's disease when you were—?

523

524Jo: I don't know. I don't think they really did. If they did, it was something you just had to
525give, not maybe that it really worked, like the ones that they have today. I don't think
526they had any at that time. That's why they were so isolated.

527

528Interviewer: Were they still sending people to Kalaupapa?

529

530Jo: Oh, yeah! Either that or they ran away and hid. But if they were found, they were
531sent there.

532

533Interviewer: And did you have any role in—

534

535Jo: Sending them?

536

537Interviewer: Yeah, did you have any role in sending them?

538

539Jo: Not really, I think it came, it skipped the public health nurse, in a way. We followed-
540up on their families. But not the patient, because doctor's would be the one that referred
541and somebody would take them over to Kalaupapa and keep them there for life.
542But we'd follow up. We had clinics, so that people who had been in contact would have
543to attend the clinics in public health.

544

545Interviewer: How did you get, how did you find out where to go? Who referred you to a
546particular patient or family?

547

548Jo: We were supposed to visit every child who was born in our districts, which we did.
549The doctors were the ones who usually referred us. And the doctors were the ones who
550wanted babies to be well, so we had the maternal-child clinics. They would come, and
551like Dr. Wallace, he would do the examinations. We would do, the public health nurses,
552would do the intake, information, that kind of thing. Visit the family, ever so often to see
553that everything is OK. Make sure they had all the immunizations so they could start

554school. That sort of thing.

555

556Interviewer: Did you give immunizations?

557

558Jo: Oh, yeah! With public health, yeah.

559

560Interviewer: And what about diet? Did you have anything to do with diet? Did you
561advise families?

562

563Jo: We had to, yeah?

564

565Interviewer: And how did you find out, or how did you think, how would you get the idea
566that there was deficiency in diet?

567

568Jo: You know, there's usually, when I think of my practice, its usually would be tied into
569whatever they had. Because it was not something we dealt in too much, unless they
570were obese, or too thin. But usually was tied into something like they had a disease
571process, or something like that. We didn't spend too much time, we didn't think about it,
572we didn't talk too much about diet.

573

574Interviewer: So most people had plenty to eat?

575

576Jo: I don't know, when I think about it now. Ok. Maybe had plenty to eat of what was not
577good. Yeah, because of the work that they did. But then each culture had their own diet.

5780:05:07.6

579Interviewer: So, you dealt with all kinds of folks. You dealt with Japanese—

580

581Jo: Everyone.

582

583Interviewer: And you mentioned earlier, something about venereal disease. Did you
584have anything to do with the treatment of venereal disease, or?

585

586Jo: Usually, went to the doctors. And if we had the file, who did they know, that type of
587thing. Just contact follow-up. But not in the treatment of that sort of thing.

588

589Interviewer: So, you would do follow-up to find out who they have—

590

591Jo: Yeah. They were referred.

592

593Interviewer: And traced the disease back, try to follow up—

594

595Jo: You know, we didn't do that much when I think about. Maybe today they do more of
596it, but at that time we did not. Because the doctors had more control, so you find out
597somebody had the disease, can you bring your family in and we're gonna to check
598them, that kind of thing. They had more control.

599

600Interviewer: How did you get around? Did they provide you a car?

601

602Jo: Yeah, they provided us a car. Health Dept. provided us a car.

603

604Interviewer: And were there any people who you were not suppose to visit? For
605instance, was there any distinction made between aliens and citizens?

606

607Jo: No. I think the only distinction we made was strictly our own. There are the higher-
608ups, oh, we don't go see the manager and his family, you know, that kind of thing. We
609don't do that, that would be really something if we were forced to do that. No. So it was
610a social strata kind of thing. I think now, looking back. 'Cause my patients were not
611those patients.

612

613Interviewer: Did you still see poor haoles? Not too many poor haoles?

614

615Jo: No, not too many. When I think back, not too many. There weren't allowed to be
616poor haoles [laughs]. You they were haoles or they were not. This is my own opinion.

617

618Interviewer: Back then, were children born at home?

619

620Jo: Most of them were, in my time, were born in the hospital. I think the plantations
621provided good health and medical care. When I think about, the people that I saw the
622children were born in the hospitals.

623

624Interviewer: And you yourself were born . . .

625

626Jo: In a hospital, yeah.

627

628Interviewer: Did I hear correctly, your mother was actually hired by the plantation?

629

630Jo: Initially, yes. Because of the language problems. And they had a proper nursing
631background, it was accepted by the United States. And that's how come.

632

633Interviewer: And when you were a pubic health nurse, were there still a number of
634hospitals that Lihue Plantation had its own hospital? Or did they use Wilcox?

635

636Jo: I don't when they transferred from plantation to Wilcox. I mean, I don't know the
637history. But yes, they had their own, plantations had their own hospitals. And then when
638Wilcox was built, they closed their . . .

639

640Interviewer: They closed. Ok. And that would be throughout the whole district that you
641were dealing with. Wilcox basically took over all the plantation hospitals.

642

643Jo: No. Waimea had their own. Umm, when I think of Kapaa and Hanalei . . .

644

645Interviewer: Was their one in Kilauea?

646

647Jo: Yeah, there was something over there, on that side of the island. When I think about
648it.

649But I know Waimea had their own, their own hospital.

650

651Interviewer: So you would go drive all the way to Hanalei, you'd drive alone, or?

652

653Jo: If I had to, oh, alone. If we had to. But my district was usually from Hanamaulu to
654yeah, that's how it was divided, so we didn't have to go. But everything that happened
655then you were responsible. You did all the clinics, the follow-up, of people with
656contagious diseases, crippled children, all that.

657

658Interviewer: And did you enjoy this work?

659

660Jo: What is enjoy? I think I did. I had, when I think back, I had a lot of independence.

661You know, I did the decision-making, whether I was right or wrong, I was expected to do
662it. And the people were expected to carry out, when I think about it.

663

664Interviewer: And did the families that you visited, did they welcome you?

665Jo:

666Yah. I think the only ones that maybe were concerned about if we take somebody from
667the family that they didn't want taken away. Or put in Mahelona Hospital, the children,
668and the

669

6700:10.14.4

671Interviewer: This would be for tuberculosis.

672

673Jo: Yeah. It was originally an institution for malnourished, or mal-something children. My
674mother sent my oldest brother there. 'Cause she wanted the people to not to be afraid
675of going there. If you needed care, go, see I sent my boy there. So, you shouldn't be
676afraid of sending there. Because that's what they did. Which was great at that time it
677was needed. I needed some place to help children get the proper care.

678

679Interviewer: That was called Kaiakea? Was that what it was called? That's alright.

680

681Jo: Not Kaiakea. Uh . . . sounds like it, so that's why I'm struggling with it.

682

683Interviewer: That was such creativity on your mother's part. I realize that your brother
684probably didn't like the idea of it. But creativity to see that barrier that people were afraid
685to send their child, so by sending your own it broke through that fear. That to me was
686very creative.

687That's kind of what we're looking for when you were in public health and you had to find
688a solution, how did you get around some barriers?

689

690Jo: I think I got to know the families because you were there nursing, you made visits,
691and if they had special needs, you tried to meet their needs. And if they had a crippled

692child, that kind of thing, or something with heart condition, something like that. That's all
693you could really do.

694

695Interviewer: How many families did you try to see in a day?

696

697Jo: Oh, my gosh, I don't remember. We planned it according, you know, as public health
698nurses, we planned. If you were going to be in Puhi, you see the people in Puhi, or if a
699child was born, you would go there and visit a certain time after they went home. Then
700of course, as I said, you visited all crippled children, any body who had special needs.

701

702Interviewer: So what were the plantation camps that you visited?

703

704Jo: This one. You know, in Puhi.

705

706Interviewer: There were Filipinos here. Filipinos?

707

708Jo: Oh yeah! Lot of Filipino workers, but we didn't just deal with Filipinos, we dealt with
709the whole community. Whether they liked it or not, we dealt with the whole community.
710Because I think some people view public health nurses as "If I needed it, something
711must be wrong with me." Socially that you're not up there that you could take care of
712yourself. But we, because we did communicable disease, that was our job, whether you
713were upper class or lower class. We had to follow up.

714

715Interviewer: And how many public health nurses were there?

716

717Jo: Not too many, according to the districts we had maybe 32, 37, 38, [13:12] around
718there. For the whole island, yah?

719

720Andy: Were you the only public health nurse that dealt with this area most of the time?

721

722Jo: Yeah, you were assigned a district and that's what you had to do. Give that care.

723But that was good, somebody did follow-up and – I don't know what they do today.

724Absolutely, no idea. I hope they do follow-up and make sure that child gets the proper
725follow up care.

726

727Interviewer: Do you have particular stories that are especially interesting, that you would
728share with us?

729

730Jo: Stories? No, I don't think so.

731

732Interviewer: Is there any question that you wish we would ask you about, something that
733you were wanting to talk about today that we forgot to ask?

734

735Jo: No really. I think you covered it pretty much.

736

737Interviewer: We were hoping you could do or redo your introduction, you name, when

738you were born . . .

739

740Jo: Born in Koloa, lived, then went to school.

741

742Interviewer: When were you born?

743

744Jo: Oh, April 6—are you testing my [group breaks into laughter]. April 6—you know you
745should, you really should because I have to admit that I've forgot a lot of things. I have
746to admit now. April 6, 1927, in Koloa.

747

748Interviewer: Give your full name again.

749

750Jo: My full name: Josephine Gray G-R-A-Y Abaya Cortezan Duvauchelle. That's how
751you traced your lineage. You would follow through with names of the people and they
752are the last names. Gray was my grandmother's maiden name and she became Abaya,
753so Abaya was my mother's maiden name, she became Cortezan. So it was a good way
754following your lineage. We don't do that today [laughs].

755

756Interviewer: No. We get confused. [laughs]

757

758Interviewer: And are your brothers and sisters still living in Koloa.

759

7600:15:26.4

761Jo: Oh, no. They're all over. Yes. Oh, sister [name?] in Ohio. She was in the
762Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. And she settled in Ohio. My sister Mabel Jean is in
763Honolulu. She was married to Rudy Picardo, the legislator. She was, that's a past tense,
764ok? And then my brother lives in Honolulu, Robert. And I live here.

765Andy: And were you the oldest or youngest?

766

767I was the oldest living. I have two older brothers and they both died. One as a teenager,
768and one maybe one or two years old. Product of the times, right?

769

770Interviewer: And was Mabel named after Mabel Wilcox?

771Jo:

772Yes. She was.

773

774Interviewer: You know you were named after your mother.

775

776Jo: Right, yeah. But she was named after Mabel Wilcox. My mother was very close to
777the—

778Especially, Mabel, because she was a nurse. Elsie was a lawyer. So little bit different.

779

780Interviewer: So how many nurses do you think trained here, thanks to your . . .

781

782Jo: I really don't know, because we the number of nurses we can educated depends on
783the number of faculty that you had. It's very strict. The board of nursing specifies,

784because they're working under your license. If anything goes wrong, you're responsible
785as a registered nurse. So you are allowed to supervise only x-number of students. And it
786depends where. Critical care, you 'd better not have more than one or two. Because
787you're responsible for those patients. So actually, they're really part of you doing the
788work.

789

790Interviewer: So you actually have to supervisor the—

791

792Y Jo: Yeah, literally be with them.

793

794Interviewer: The number of faculty now at the college would determine how many.

795

796Jo: And rather they going the clinical area or not, if you're in a clinic, not sure you can
797have as many as you want. But if you're going to the critical area, which is very
798important to the nursing curriculum, you had to have x-number of registered nurse to x-
799number of students. And depending the severity of the illness, yah?

800

801Interviewer: That's quite different from any other department here.

802

803Jo: I think so because you are dealing with human beings, not inanimate objects, you
804know. If you hurt somebody, it's a human being, you are hurting them. Well, the state
805requires

806That. It's not us. It's the state that requires we have certain number of licensed
807personnel with a certain number of students.

808

809Interviewer: So, in setting up the curriculum, you' d have all these pre-reqs. Before a
810person could begin the medical part, they'd have to, is that how you set it up, you'd
811have to—

812

813Yeah, in a way its concurrently, what they're taking, English and all these required
814subjects. But at the same time they'd be getting first courses in physical care, and then
815on to more complex kind of things. But at the same time they're learning different
816diseases, but not only that, I don't how they do it now but, actually, they might do the
817same, you take a person in their own setting. So you need to know something about
818their background, their culture, if they have family, of course, that's all incorporated into
819their care. You just not dealing, "Oh, he has this disease and this is what happens." You
820have to deal with the whole person, that's the way I looked at it. I'm not sure what they
821do today. I'm sure they must incorporate that too. But that's how we dealt with the, uh, in
822our nursing curriculum when they study. You always think of the nurse as a human
823being dealing with a human being. And not a disease process. And that's so easy to do,
824you know? Just forget that they have feelings and just deal with it, the disease. Easier to
825deal with the disease. 'Cause you just do what you want to do and too bad [laughs].

826

827Interviewer: The difference between the doctor and a nurse sometimes.

828

829Jo: Sometimes! I don't dare tell that to Douglas, my doctor son! [laughs] But that's true.

830Not only doctors, nurses, too. They can be very—I think sometimes they protect
831themselves from getting feelings because if you allow that to be exposed, you are
832yourself to be exposed. You need to know how to balance everything.

833

834Interviewer: That's what I was trying to get at, too, is in the nursing field. What advice
835would you have. You're going to run against cases, or people, young children who may
836die, and . . . what kind of advice would you give to a nurse?

837

8380:20: 35.5

839Jo: Always to remember their human beings and you're a human being, too. My advice
840is that, always that. If you place, as a person, if you place yourself in the position of the
841other person, then you know how you want to be treated. So, what else? 'Cause you
842can, it's easy to deal with disease processes, 'cause no more anybody to worry about,
843there's no feelings you have to worry about, you just deal with the disease. But when
844you put the person in it, then it gets more complex, but to me it gets more interesting
845that you do better work.

846

847Interviewer: That's what I was wondering as you were a public health nurse . . . was it
848reward when you saw that was ill starting to thrive—

849

850Jo: Yeah.

851

852Interviewer: And then learning how—

853

854Jo: In fact, even today, I'll be out in the community and a woman would come up to me,
855tell her young adult, "Don't you remember her? She was your nurse!" And I felt so sorry
856for the person, they don't remember me because they were babies when I used to visit
857them. Was so funny! I always have to laugh, 'cause I hear that so often. You know, and I
858think because maybe the parents saw me somebody dealing with their family rather
859than someone making sure they get the shots, and stuff like that.

860

861Interviewer: You got to know the whole family.

862

863Jo: Yeah, I did!

864

865Interviewer: And then they, developed a trust.

866

867Jo: Oh, yeah. You had to. Especially when you dealt with communicable diseases that
868needed, and when there's separation, yeah, that's a hard part. The person has to be
869separated from the family.

870

871Interviewer: And you know, do you know Filipino?

872

873Jo: No! Unfortunately, the common language in my family is English. My mother
874understood my father, my father didn't understand my mother, so we spoke in English.
875In a way, that was supported from my time because then I wasn't involved in this kind of

876mental anguish you have because you don't really understand. That was fortunate for
877me, in my time. Today, I wish I did. But I don't . . . wish I did but I don't. [22.51.8]

878

879Interviewer: But you certainly knew the local way of life, local culture, growing up on
880Kauai.

881

882Jo: Oh, yeah.

883

884Interviewer: ... that probably provides some bond.

885

886Jo: And besides if they knew my parents. So I might use that [laughs] to get in. 'Cause
887they knew my parents, so they knew my parents, then they knew me, too. So, I can, the
888door would open.

889

890Interviewer: Your mother was not a public health nurse. She worked for the plantations?

891

892Jo: No, ah . . .

893

894Interviewer: Or was she a public health nurse?

895

896Jo: Eventually, she evolved into public health nursing. Ok. Originally, yeah. She was
897brought in by plantations, 'cause they need someone to speak the language. But then,
898she was, pretty soon everybody wanted her because she spoke so many dialects. The
899courts always asked her to come and interpret. And the people had to trust her who
900were being tried or needed help. All the social services departments would call on her
901because she could communicate. It's so important to be able to communicate. And
902that's how come she, she was, um, she developed this rule, that maybe as a nurse, you
903know, just nurse, because she had other kinds of skills. She was demanded. But
904eventually she became a—she worked with the YWCA. So she did lots of work with
905young women and girls and young families. That was her, at the end, that was her main.
906But everybody called on her. The courts always called on her, the health department, so
907many called on her because of her other skills. And I think because the people in the
908community trusted her. I think it's one of the main things.

909

910Interviewer: Do you think there were any significant differences in the kind of services
911that she was able to deliver and that you were in public health nursing had changed in
912significant ways?

913

9140:24:57.2

915Jo: Maybe, well, in my time, we wanted to be more preventive, you know. That's why we
916had the clinics and all of that. When I think in her time, you went whether or not
917[25.11.9] there was an acute thing happening, so they need someone who could
918interpret, so they would call on her. Yeah, I think it's changed. But it depends on your
919own skills. I wish I had a skill of languages, which I don't. You know, if I had that, wow, it
920would be so much more needed. Yeah. But then I became an instructor. They needed
921that, too, didn't they [laughs].

922

923Interviewer: You need to speak pidgin sometimes.

924

925Jo: You know, I had a hard time with pidgin. Because we didn't speak it at home!

926

927Interviewer: Really?

928

929Y Jo: yeah. I have a hard time with it so I don't too much.

930

931Interviewer: Because your parents valued education . . .

932

933T Jo: hey only knew good English to speak to each other, so they didn't speak in pidgin.

934Jo: So I think that's what happened. And when I went away to school.

935

936Interviewer: Mid-Pacific and Cincinnati

937

938Jo: Yeah, it changes your life. Is there any other questions?

939

940Interviewer: I think we covered the health subject pretty thoroughly?

941

942Interviewer: And I don't have any questions, unless there's something you want to ask.

943

944Interviewer: Did we skip a part of the story in your life?

945

946Jo: The only thing I would rather say, and I think I said it before is. I started the program

947here not because I was the best person, it's because I was the only one available. Gotta

948have somebody who had this background. And I didn't know anything about teaching.

949So, the only thing I knew was my university courses, which was fortunate. So I had

950nothing to compare it to. I didn't have to say, oh, is this better than the other? I think that

951was one thing that was good.

952

953Interviewer: Let me ask a question about that, because I was a little bit confused. You

954came here in the late 1960's.

955

956Jo: When did I finish school?

957

958Interviewer: No. To teach at Kauai community College, before there was a nursing

959program, and you taught like LPNs . . .

960

961Jo: First was nurses aides.

962

963Interviewer: Nurses aides, ok. And then after the nursing program was started here, that

964was with Maxine Kim, and I think she was the one that was the first one to put it

965together. Then you continued to teach here and ultimately you became the director of

966nursing, right?

967

968Jo: Yeah . . . yeah.

969

970Interviewer: And that's when you were turning, when you were teach people who were
971becoming LPNs and RNs.

972

973Jo: Yes, I did the LPN and the associate degree programs that produced RNs.

974

975Interviewer: I wasn't, I didn't realize that, so I was confused when I was listening to you
976the first time, but that is what you said, so.

977

978Jo: And I'm glad I did the actual teaching part. I'm not a good administrator type, you
979know. So that I didn't want to do that kind of thing.

980Interviewer: But you had the degree.

981

982 But yeah! See that's all they care in the board of nurses, so did they have a ??

983[28.12.6] educated. Like you.

984

985Interviewer: So that's why had to become accredited or is it different. .

986

987Jo: Yeah. I think it depends a lot on the school and their ??, because some schools still,
988you probably know this, still think of the old way of teaching nursing. I don't know if they
989still do, but I use to have visits, so many visits from schools from, nursing schools, other
990places who wanted to develop. The mainland people would come and visit because of
991our career ladder. It was strictly ignorance on my part, wasn't anything, oh, like this.
992That's the way it should be, you know? That's all I knew.

993

994Interviewer: So you wrote the book, so to speak.

995

996Jo: Ahhh! [laughs] Maybe I put it, maybe I applied it my way.

997

998Interviewer: That's what we've been trying to get at is the uniqueness of how you
999thought of this career ladder.

1000

1001Jo: That's important. You hate to have people waste, you know. 'Cause they're still
1002young, they don't know what they want to do. So if you give them a chance, too . . . OK,
1003now I know I didn't really want to do that, I can move on, that's good.

1004

1005Interviewer: And some of your students would come and take part of, you know, take a
1006few steps on the career ladder. Go to work, and come back, years later and move on to
1007the next.

1008

1009Jo: Yes, that's what, why it's so...the concept is good, because you don't fail, you just
1010go where you want to go and do what you have to do to go to the next. That's really
1011important, I didn't want any failures. That's why we were so strict about who could come
1012in. Because you didn't people come in you know gonna fail. You have to have the
1013correct background. That's why you took all those courses from your department to

1014make sure, oh yeah, they can do it. 'Cause they did it successfully. . . . they were taking
1015Psych and all these other things. Yeah.

1016

1017Interviewer: And they still do that today, I know they do pre-reqs.

1018

10190:30:23,5

1020Jo: Oh, they do? I don't know what they do now, frankly, speaking.

1021

1022Interviewer: I talked with the students. It's hard to get in. They have to qualify, and be
1023accepted.

1024

1025Jo: Yes. I think that's really good, you don't want any body to experience failure. If they
1026can take 'em in, and you they're going to fail, why take them in? If this is not for them,
1027direct them in another way. That's what I just didn't like is the people to, you know, fail.
1028Because they deliberately help them to fail by taking them in and you know they couldn't
1029be able to do the work. So any body that was taken into program, we knew could
1030succeed if they wanted. So, it's up to them.

1031

1032Interviewer: And then we also know from history, that most of those who completed the
1033course passed the exam.

1034

1035Jo: They all did!

1036

1037Interviewer: Almost all of them in your day. Yes.

1038

1039Jo: They don't anymore?

1040

1041Interviewer: I think that they almost all do. I think some of them have to take it over
1042again.

1043

1044Jo: Oh well, that's OK, as long as they pass the second time. We're not all

1045

1046Interviewer: I don't remember the specifics exactly.

1047Yeah, so you took them in, you educate them, you're expected to pass! It would be
1048terrible if they didn't pass. How did they get there?

1049

1050Interviewer: I do remember that that was something that we use to brag about, and not
1051me so much, but the school use to brag about. Was that all the people who took the test
1052passed. And that was important.

1053

1054Jo: Oh, yeah! You failed the student if they can't do that. So along the way, you should
1055know that this is not for them, why let them go round and round and this is not
1056something they should be doing.

1057

1058Interviewer: Well, I think that's why you were visited by the mainland people. Because
1059they wanted to know what our secret was.

1060

1061 That was so funny because I didn't know why! They would come and kind of corner me,
1062 and I don't why! I thought we were doing the same thing as everybody else. And in a
1063 way that's good. Then you don't get, think you're better than anybody else. It was
1064 always funny to me. [To Andy] I don't know if I talked to you about that. Why is
1065 everybody here to talk?

1066

1067 Interviewer: No, I don't think so.

1068

1069 Jo: I know the first time we had the program here, and I said, ok the science department
1070 gonna do this, and ahhh, I had ?? [32:43.0]. Were you here when we first started the
1071 program and they had said you gonna do the anatomy, physiology, and all that. That
1072 was my assumption, that's their department, you know, the science department. . . . I
1073 heard that they were taking it back, the faculty were taking . . . much later, of course.
1074 That they were expected to teach these courses.

1075

1076 Interviewer: They were expected to teach . . .

1077

1078 Jo: Anatomy, physiology, and all. I'm glad I didn't know it then. 'Cause that's what you
1079 do. Automatically, you teach the math, you teach the English, you teach the social
1080 sciences, I'll do the nursing.

1081

1082 Interviewer: And that's the way it ultimately worked. But not right, yes.

1083

1084 Jo: I guess, this is as I said, where ignorance is bliss. You don't know how other schools
1085 did it. You just know how you did it. You know, you know that's why.

1086

1087 Interviewer: Makes sense that you would take advantage of the Math department.

1088

1089 Jo: Oh, I wouldn't be able to teach math! I teach that you gotta do it accurately, 'cause
1090 you gonna give the medications to patients, right? But how to teach it was not my forte.
1091 I'm very poor in math. All I know is I know how that we must check it to make sure your
1092 calculations are correct. You give me a complicated math question, I won't be able to do
1093 it. [laughs]

1094

1095 Interviewer: Don't tell anyone!

1096

1097 Interviewer: Well, I think we've covered the subjects.

1098

1099 Jo: Well, thank you very much for interviewing me.

1100

1101 Interviewer: Good to see you again.

1102

1103 [Ended here, conversation turned to paperwork, followed by clapboard]

1104

11050:34:33.2